COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
*"Parks Make Life Better!"*
John Wicker, Acting Director

December 2, 2015

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: John Wicker
Acting Director

SUBJECT: **MOTION RESPONSE REPORT ON VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS EXPANDED OPERATING HOURS PILOT PROGRAM (AGENDA ITEM 14, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING OF AUGUST 12, 2014)**

On August 12, 2014, your Board approved the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (FSEIR) for Virginia Robinson Gardens (Gardens), which proposed operational changes to allow more access for visitors, including opening the Gardens on Saturdays and holidays and extending the hours of operation by 30 minutes daily. At the same time, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky brought in a motion instructing the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) to:

1) Institute a 12-month pilot program in which the Garden limits its Saturday hours to two Saturdays per month;

2) Return to the Board 30 days after the completion of the pilot program with an evaluation of the Saturday use based on attendance, number of complaints, and impacts, if any, to neighbors; and

3) Make a recommendation to the Board as to continuing Saturday hours of operation.

The motion also recognized the efforts of the Department and Friends of Robinson Gardens who have worked tirelessly to make this multi-faceted property more accessible to the public without impacting the neighborhood.

As directed, the Department implemented Saturday operations twice a month for the pilot program starting August 12, 2014, for garden events that relate to the historical context of the Gardens. Attendance, requests for usage, parking locations and impacts, concerns and/or complaints from neighbors were closely monitored and tracked.

The pilot program was completed on August 12, 2015. Tours during the pilot program were conducted without incident and without any complaints. Due to limited Saturday availability, the Gardens denied several commercial photoshoots and rental requests. A full report is attached. The pilot program revealed that the strongest public demand for tours is on Saturday, particularly from working families with children.

After a thorough evaluation of the information gathered during the pilot program, the Department recommends full implementation of the FSEIR, which was approved by your Board on August 12, 2014. Please let us know if you have any concerns. Otherwise, we will proceed with the implementation of the full FSEIR after 30 days, opening the gardens to the public each Saturday, thereby allowing more families from throughout the County to enjoy this beautiful garden.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (213) 738-2953 or via email at jwicker@parks.lacounty.gov or your staff may contact Mr. Hugo Maldonado, Regional Operations Manager at (626) 369-5147 or via email at hmaldonado@parks.lacounty.gov.

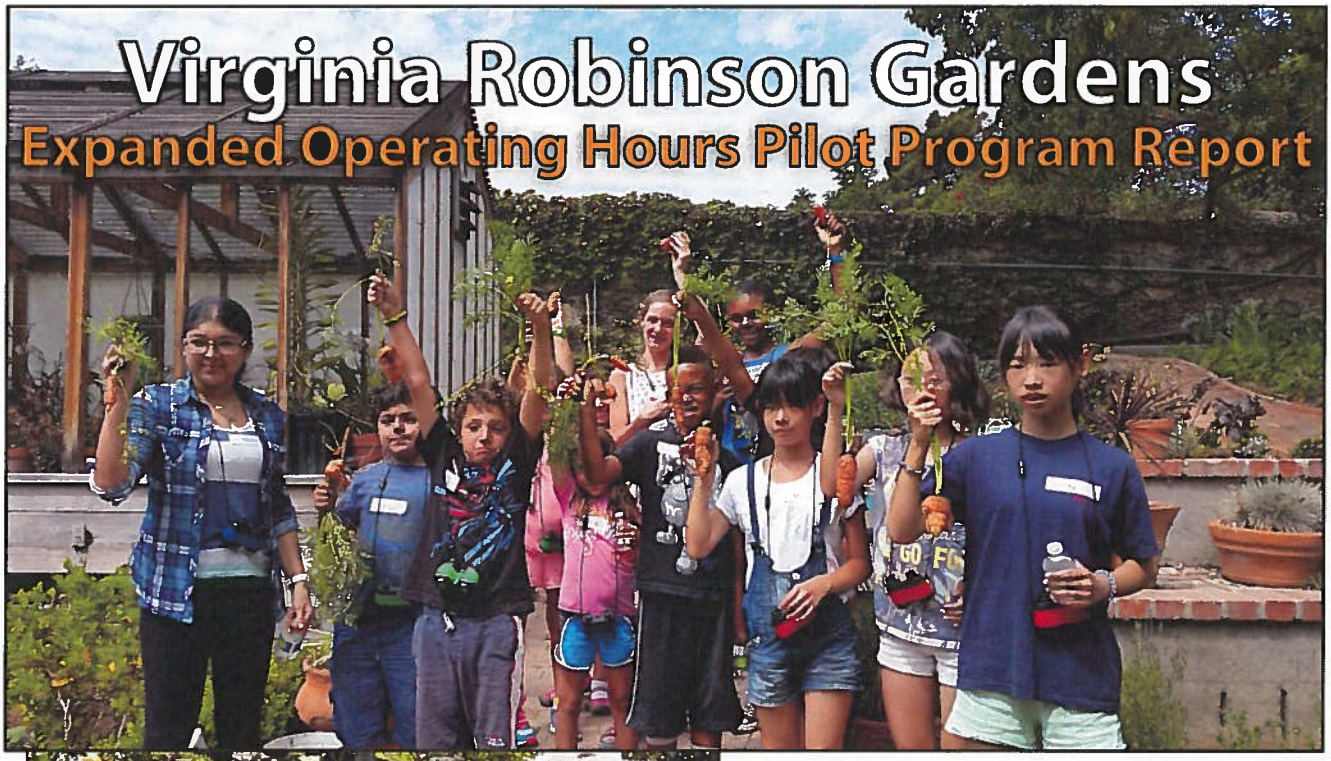
JW:TL:HM:dy

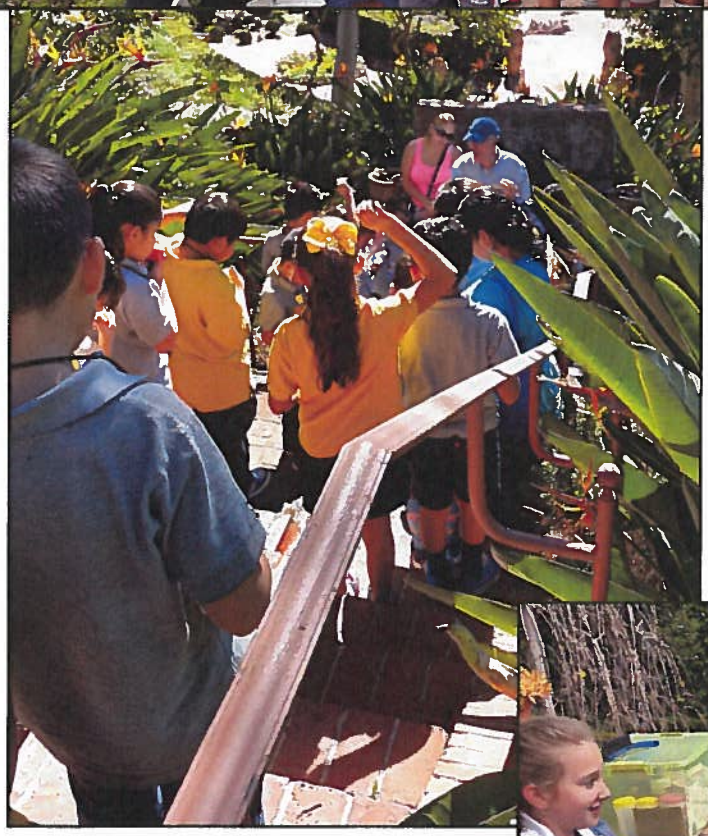
Attachment

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors (Patrick Ogawa)
Chief Executive Office (S. A. Hamai and J. Jones)
County Counsel (M. C. Wickham and C. Salseda)
Park Deputies (T. Villegas, K. Katona, M Chong-Castillo, E. Stibal, S. Nemer)
Parks and Recreation (H. Sohm, H. Maldonado, T. Lindsay)

# Virginia Robinson Gardens

## Expanded Operating Hours Pilot Program Report





Virginia Robinson's vision for this landmark property was to make it accessible to the public, while providing enrichment and enjoyment to children from all socio-economic backgrounds.

On the docent- led tour, the children learn through hands-on experience, while grasping a better understanding of the 3-R's: recycling, reusing, and reclaiming.

# VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS' EXTENDED HOURS REPORT
## August 12, 2014 through August 12, 2015

| DATE OF EVENT | TIME OF EVENT | EVENT TYPE | NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS | PARKING ON SITE | CONCERNS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **October 18, 2014** | 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. | Friends of Robinson Gardens co-sponsored event – luncheon/meeting | 40 | Yes | None |
| **November 8, 2014** | 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Volunteer docent training program | 15 | Yes | None |
| **November 22, 2014** | 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. | Educational lecture and book signing | 50 | Yes | None |
| **December 27, 2014** | 10 a.m. | Docent guided tour | 8 | Yes | None |
| **January 3, 2015** | 1 p.m. | Docent guided tour | 9 | Yes | None |
| **January 17, 2015** | 10 a.m. | Docent guided tour | 8 | Yes | None |
| **February 7, 2015** | 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. | Docent guided tour | 23 | Yes | None |
| **February 21, 2015** | 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. | Docent guided tour | 32 | Yes | None |
| **March 7, 2015** | 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. | Docent guided tours | 40 | Yes | None |
| **March 14, 2015** | | Commercial Photoshoot | | | Denied due to limited Saturday availability |
| **March 22, 2015** | | Commercial Photoshoot | | | Denied due to limited Saturday availability |
| **March 28, 2015** | 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Botanic Art Class | 15 | Yes | None |
| **March 28, 2015** | 10 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. | Docent guided tours | 22 | Yes | None |
| **April 11, 2015** | 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. | Docent guided tours | 27 | Yes | None |
| **April 25, 2015** | 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m.; 1:30 p.m. | Docent guided tours | 41 | Yes | None |

| DATE OF EVENT | TIME OF EVENT | EVENT TYPE | NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS | PARKING ON SITE | CONCERNS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **May 16, 2015** | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Special Event: 27th Annual Garden Tour | 900 | Yes (Guest Valet) Designers and Vendors parked off-site at Greystone Mansion | None |
| **May 30, 2015** | 10 a.m. | Docent guided tour | 17 | Yes | None |
| **May 30, 2015** | 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. | Photography Rental | 14 | Yes | None |
| **June 6, 2015** | 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. | Docent guided tours | 31 | Yes | None |
| **June 6, 2015** | 3 p.m. | Non-Commercial location scouting | 2 | Yes | Denied due to limited Saturday availability |
| **June 27, 2015** | 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. | Docent guided tours | 26 | Yes | None |
| **July 11, 2015** | 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. | Docent guided tours | 25 | Yes | None |
| **July 18, 2015** | 11 a.m. (10:30 a.m. tour postponed due to weather) | Docent guided tours | 15 | Yes | None |
| **July 18, 2015** | 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. | Still Photography | 6 | Yes | Denied due to limited Saturday availability |
| **August 1, 2015** | 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. | Docent Guided Tours | 35 | Yes | None |